

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING COMMEMORATION**

In February 2007, sixty-two years ago, more than 110,000 Americans and 880 ships began their assault on a small volcanic island in the Pacific, in the climactic battle of the last year of WWII. On February 19, 1945, a large contingent of Marines landed on the island, facing an equally substantial army of Japanese defenders. One of the bloodiest, fiercest four days of combat ensued, in the course of which the Marines took more casualties than in several months of battle at Guadalcanal. Iwo Jima became the most populous 7½ square miles on the planet as U. S. Marines and Japanese soldiers fought a battle that would test American resolve symbolizing a free society's willingness to make the sacrifice necessary to prevail over evil – A SACRIFICE AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS THEN.

On February 23, 1945, forty Marines climbed Mt. Suribachi in order to plant the American Flag at the top of the hill. The U. S. victory became a turning point in the Pacific War and provided one of the most memorable photographic images of WWII, the planting of the U. S. Flag atop Mt. Suribachi five days after the Iwo Jima Landing. Joe Rosenthal, an AP photographer, took several shots of the event. This famous photograph of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima is the picture which soon became the universal symbol that it still is today.

Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 on the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, Arizona, is once again commemorating this event on Saturday, February 24, 2007 beginning at 9:00 a.m. with a Military flyover & Parade.

Followed by ceremonial events at the Veterans/Memorial Park which includes massing of colors, flag-raising, POW/MIA service, memorial dedication and wreath laying.

Gourd dancing will begin at 2:00 and the social powwow/grand entry will be at 7:30 p.m. at the GRIC District 3 ball field.

This year there is over 100 Military entries for the Parade, which includes 16 of the Navajo Code Talkers. This will be one of the largest number of Code Talkers to attend this or any other event in Southern Arizona.

For more information, contact the Ira Hayes Post in Sacaton, Arizona (520-562-8484).



# **62nd Anniversary of The Iwo Jima Flag Raising**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT AT SUNBIRD GOLF RESORT, CHANDLER AZ. FEB. 23 2007**

**PRE CEREMONY DINNER AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, SACATON AZ. FEB. 23 2007**

**PARADE & CEREMONIES**

**SAT. FEB. 24, 2007**

**FUN RUN**

**MILITARY PARADE & FLYOVER BY WWII B-17 BOMBER**

**PARADE BEGINS AT 9 AM**

**CEREMONIES BEGIN AT 10 AM AT THE**

**MATHEW B. JUAN, IRA H. HAYES**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, SACATON AZ.**

**(ALL PUBLIC & VETERANS GROUPS ARE WELCOME)**

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE AUXILIARY UNIT 84 AFTER CEREMONIES**

**PARKING FOR CEREMONIES AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**GOULD DANCING & POW WOW AFTER THE LUNCH**

**AT DISTRICT 3 BALL PARK**

**SPONSORED BY: THE IRA H. HAYES AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 84 & AUXILIARY UNIT NO. 84**

**PHONE: 1 (520)-562-8484 FAX: 1 (520)-562-3297**

**E MAIL [ihpost84@gilanet.net](mailto:ihpost84@gilanet.net)**



**From Phoenix, I-10 exit 175, north on SR587 over freeway, east on Casa Blanca Road. From Tucson, I-10 exit 185, north on SR187, left to Sacaton.**

**From Fountain Hills, Scottsdale, Mesa, Chandler, southeast on SR87.**

**RSVP** Golf Tournament 1/31/07 - Entry form - POC 480-802-0510  
Dinner 1/10/07 - POC 520-466-4109  
Parade 1/15/07 - Entry Form - POC Josie  
POWWOW - POC 520-252-6602

If you have any questions, please call the Post or call  
Josie Delsi, Parade Chairman/Committee Assistant  
520-836-1022 or 520-705-8178 [kakar\\_delsi@cgmailbox.com](mailto:kakar_delsi@cgmailbox.com)